



BLACK WALNUT (*Juglans nigra*)

Black walnut is a valuable forest tree that grows among other species on bottomlands and moist fertile hillsides throughout North Carolina and across most of the eastern United States. It grows best on deep, well-drained soils, and thrives in well-drained bottomlands and mountain coves. It has a moderate growth rate. Full sunlight is required. Black walnut normally reaches 50 to 90 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in diameter. It matures in about 150 years, but may live as long as 250 years. It produces a chemical, juglone, which is toxic to certain plant species. Black walnut wood, especially the heartwood with its rich chocolate-brown color, is one of the most valuable native woods. Its more important uses include fine furniture, cabinetwork and gunstocks. Its nuts are also prized for distinctive flavor; nutshells are used as an abrasive in certain manufacturing processes. The nuts also are a favorite food of squirrels.